



Date: June 2020

To: Parent/Guardian of rising seventh graders

Subject: Tdap immunization requirements for entry into seventh grade

In April 2018, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) changed the minimum recommended age for the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) adolescent booster vaccine from 10 to 11 years of age. As a result, a routine adolescent booster dose of Tdap should not be administered to students younger than 11 years of age.

To align with current ACIP recommendations, the 2019 General Assembly passed HB 2215 that changes the grade in which students receive Tdap vaccine from sixth to seventh grade. **The Code of Virginia requires that all students entering seventh grade receive a Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis) booster prior to the first day of school.** Students who received a Tdap immunization at age ten will not need another Tdap vaccine to enter seventh grade.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic initially disrupted or limited services offered by local health departments and providers, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that parents now proceed with well-child physicals and immunizations. Planning ahead to complete state requirements for school enrollment will ensure a smooth and safe start when schools reopen.

Please do one of the following:

\* If your child has already received the Tdap vaccine, please provide a copy of your child's immunization record to the school nurse before the start of school.

\* If your child has not received the Tdap vaccine, then schedule an appointment with your child's health care provider to receive the vaccine. Once the vaccine has been given then mail, fax or drop off proof of vaccine to the school nurse before the start of school. **Students entering the 7th grade must provide proof of vaccine before they can start school.**

Please contact your child's School Nurse with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

**Berkeley Glenn Elementary School**  
540-946-4680

**Westwood Hills Elementary School**  
540-946-4670

**Wenonah Elementary School**  
540-946-4660

**William Perry Elementary School**  
540-946-4650

**Kate Collins Middle School**  
540-946-4635